

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
ROCK HILL DIVISION**

Patrick D. Cottingham, ) C/A No.: 0:17-cv-01833-TLW  
                          )  
                          )  
Plaintiff,             )  
                          )  
                          )  
v.                      )  
                          )  
Nancy A. Berryhill,    )  
Acting Commissioner of Social Security,    )  
                          )  
                          )  
Defendant.             )  
                          )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

**ORDER**

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff Patrick Cottingham's motion for attorney's fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). ECF No. 30. Plaintiff initially sought reimbursement for counsel's representation in the above-captioned matter in the amount of \$10,295.13 in attorney's fees. However, the parties then filed a stipulation in which the Commissioner agreed to a fee award of \$7,000.00. ECF No. 31.

Having reviewed the file and being fully advised, the Court hereby **ORDERS** that the stipulation for the award of attorney's fees pursuant to the EAJA, ECF No. 31, is **APPROVED**, and the Commissioner is ordered to award Plaintiff \$7,000.00 in attorney's fees, less the amount of any federal debts owed by Plaintiff. Although the EAJA fee award should be paid to Plaintiff rather than to his attorney pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 595–98 (2010), the check itself should be mailed directly to Plaintiff's attorney.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

February 6, 2019  
Columbia, South Carolina

s/Terry L. Wooten  
Terry L. Wooten  
Chief United States District Judge